

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a terminal transmission mode and a printing mode, based on (now canceled) claim 6 and the disclosure in the specification at, for example, pages 27-31 (see, in particular, the PC TRANSMISSION mode and the PRINTING mode). Claim 1 has also been amended to make some clarifying amendments so as to more clearly and positively recite the features thereof in better U.S. form.

In addition, claims 2-5 have been amended to make some minor improvements so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

Still further, new claims 7-13 have been added.

New claim 7 is based on the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 27, lines 5-8.

New claim 8 is based on the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 31, lines 10-14.

New claim 9 and claim 10 depending therefrom are based on the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 30, line 10 to page 31, line 8.

New claim 11, which depends from claim 9, and new claim 12, which depends from claim 1, are based on the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 28, lines 5-7 and 17-19.

And new claim 13 is based on the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 30, lines 2-9.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of US 2002/0015182 ("Akiyama et al") and USP 6,341,160 ("Tverskoy et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

The rejection based on Akiyama et al and Tverskoy et al is summarized at page 6 of the Office Action. In particular, it is noted that Tverskoy et al has been cited as disclosing of a telephone answering machine, which emails voice messages to a

user, and which can accept commands, including a command to delete a voice mail message, via email from the user. Thus, the Examiner asserts that "the conceptual ideas as prescribed in claims 5 and 6 are made known as evidenced in Tverskoy et al." And page 6 of the Office Action asserts that, as a whole, Akiyama et al and Tverskoy et al disclose a device which can execute a user command to delete data.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, an image forming apparatus is provided which comprises, in particular, an identification electronic mail creating device for, when the communication control data has been obtained by the data processor, creating an identification electronic mail for notifying that the facsimile communication data has been received and prompting a receiver of the identification electronic mail to set one of a plurality of image data processing modes for the image data, wherein the identification electronic mail including the identification data of the image data.

In addition, according to claim 1, a transmission and reception device transmits the identification electronic mail to an electronic mail address, and receives an instruction electronic mail from an external terminal in response to the identification electronic mail, wherein instruction electronic mail contains the identification data of the image data and an

instruction to set one of the plurality of image data processing modes for the image data.

Moreover, according to claim 1, an electronic mail processor is provided for extracting the instruction to set one of the plurality of image data processing modes and the identification data of the image data from the received instruction electronic mail. And a control section controls the image forming apparatus to process the image data in accordance with the image data processing mode instructed by the instruction extracted by the electronic mail processor.

Still further, according to amended independent claim 1, the plurality of image processing modes include a terminal transmission mode and a printing mode. When the terminal transmission mode is instructed by the instruction extracted by the electronic mail processor, the control section controls the image forming apparatus to transmit the image data to the external terminal. And when the printing mode is instructed by the instruction extracted by the electronic mail processor, the control section controls the image forming apparatus to output the image data by the image output device.

With this structure of the claimed present invention, the processing of a received facsimile, such as outputting or transfer, can be carried out in accordance with an instruction

given by remote operation by a receiving party, and the processing conditions can be changed in a flexible manner.

It is respectfully submitted that even the combination of Akiyama et al and Tverskoy et al does not disclose, teach or suggest that a plurality of image processing modes (that can be set by an instruction electronic mail received in response to an identification electronic mail that prompts the setting of one of the modes) include a terminal transmission mode and a printing mode as recited in amended independent claim 1, according to which: (i) when the terminal transmission mode is instructed by the instruction extracted by the electronic mail processor, the control section controls the image forming apparatus to transmit the image data to the external terminal, and (ii) when the printing mode is instructed by the instruction extracted by the electronic mail processor, the control section controls the image forming apparatus to output the image data by the image output device.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if the combination of Akiyama et al and Tverskoy et al suggested by the Examiner were considered to be reasonable, the structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 still would not be achieved or rendered obvious.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-5 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Akiyama et al and Tverskoy et al, taken singly or in combination in view of the respective fair teachings thereof, under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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